It is a common practice amongst Montessori programs to open their doors to parent observers once the sixth week of school has passed. The main reason for doing so is to give the children sufficient time to acclimate to a new routine of work and internalize the basic procedures for proper functioning in the environment.

At CMS, we mark the end of our first six weeks of school by an event we call “Back to School Night” in which parents are invited to join their child in the classroom. We hope that you enjoyed participating in this event by taking a little peek into the new world your child has entered away from home.

As the center stone of Montessori pedagogy, observation is regularly practiced by the teachers to benefit both children and the adults caring for them. Observation is used to gather the information that helps with the assessment of children’s progress, plan lessons, keep records and better understand each child’s individual characteristics and needs in order to meet them appropriately. Observation also contributes to the practicing teacher’s personal and professional growth, which in turn benefits everyone involved. When Maria Montessori (who was a medical doctor) came into the education field, she utilized observation as her central tool for her study of children and their environments.

Through observation, Dr. Montessori discovered some essential characteristics in children that proved universal and still to this day stand the test of time. Three of those characteristics are: (1) Children thrive in a ‘prepared’ environment that meets their needs. (2) Children can teach themselves; they are not too young to learn advanced vocabulary, care for themselves and the environment or be polite and courteous. (3) Children can develop self-discipline, which is acquired from modeling and a provision of freedom within limits. As Montessori practitioners, it is through observation that we are made able to identify and nurture these characteristics in every child under our care.

We believe that there is no better way to share the wonderful attributes of Montessori education than having you come for a visit. With the exception of holiday weeks, starting from next week until mid-April, we welcome parents to call the school’s office and schedule a 20-minute observation session in their child’s classroom. Please note, it is preferable to have one visitor at a time. To that end, we would like to share a few helpful hints about what to expect when you come for an observation.

- A designated adult-sized observation chair will be set aside for you as you enter the room. We kindly request that observers remain quietly seated and not move around the room, this will allow you to see how the room flows in its most natural state and help minimize distractions.

- We also ask you to please not call attention to your presence in any way. If a child attempts to engage in a conversation with you, please briefly and quietly suggest that they return to their work or for them to ask for the teacher’s assistance. We also teach the children to respect the person observing them and refrain from engaging in a conversation with them.

- We always love to hear about your impressions of the environment during your visit, we encourage you to take note of any questions or comments you have and save them for a discussion with your child’s teacher outside of your observation session.

We look forward to your visits!
We would like to thank Maverick’s and Skylar’s family for offering snack and flowers to the classroom this week.

Thank you to all parents who joined our Back to School Night on Thursday, it was lovely to see so many smiles on the children’s faces.
Gavin is pictured here working with the constructive triangles. This lesson allows the child to understand that equilateral triangles can be subdivided into other types of triangles.

The children love our family board! They can often be found showing each other who is who and where they were or talking about different characteristics. During this sharing they are building express skills, expanding their vocabulary and developing socially all in one opportunity! We had fun creating and arranging the board together.

Thank you to everyone who made it to our Back to School Night! The children were excited to welcome you into the classroom. And a big thank you to Lily, Arya and Olive’s families for the nutritious snack and festive flowers over the last three weeks.

We have started our look into the Universe! Along with learning about our solar system we started a collaborative art project that will continue thorough out our exploration of the Milky Way.
Jayden using the Movable Alphabet to write the names of some friends.

Ian is using the sand tray to trace the letters.

Max is naming the continents using the puzzle map.

Thank you to: All of the parents that attended Back to School Night.